

A BILL

To promote the foreign policy of the United States by amending the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (Public Law 402, Eightieth Congress).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

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"UNITED STATES INFORMATION OFFICERS

"Sec. 1013. (a) There is hereby established a category of officers of the United States Information Agency to be known as United States Information Officers who shall, except as provided in this section, be subject to the provisions of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as heretofore or hereafter amended (hereinafter referred to as the Foreign Service Act), and any other provisions of law which are or may become applicable to Foreign Service Officers; Provided, That no person shall be eligible for appointment as a United States Information Officer unless he meets standards and has passed examinations substantially equivalent to those required for appointment as a Foreign Service Officer under the Foreign Service Act.

"(b) Such authority as is or may become available by statute to the Secretary of State with respect to Foreign Service Officers, shall be available on the same basis to the Director of the United States Information Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Director) with respect to United States

Information Officers, except as otherwise provided in this section, and except for the following sections of the Foreign Service Act or portions thereof which shall not apply to United States Information Officers: 201 (Director General of the Foreign Service), 211(a) (Board of the Foreign Service), 401(1) (Chiefs of Mission), 411 (Chiefs of Mission), the first three sentences of section 412 (classes of career ambassador and career minister), 421-422 (officers temporarily in charge), 431 (Chiefs of Mission), the last sentence of Section 443 (designation of hardship posts), 501-502 (principal diplomatic representatives), the second and third sentences of section 517 (lateral entry), 518-519 (career ambassadors, career ministers, and chiefs of mission), 571(b) (eligibility of Foreign Service Officers to serve as Director General), and section 631 (retirement of career ambassadors and career ministers).

"(c) There are hereby established in the United States Information Agency (1) a board composed of four senior officers of the Agency designated by the Director, and one officer of the Department of State designated by the Secretary of State, one of whom shall be designated Chairman by the Director, and (2) a board of examiners designated by the Director, which boards shall carry out with respect to foreign service personnel of the Agency the functions vested by the Foreign Service Act in the Board of the Foreign Service and the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service, respectively.

"(d) The Secretary of State may, upon request of the Director, recommend to the President that United States Information Officers be commissioned as diplomatic or consular officers, or both, in accordance with section 512 of the Foreign Service Act. The Secretary of State may, upon request of the Director, assign United States Information Officers, commissioned as diplo-

matic or consular officers, to serve under such commissions in accordance with sections 512 and 514 of the Foreign Service Act.

"(e) The Director shall establish and administer an independent retirement and disability system for United States Information Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Service Act.

"(f) Regulations prescribed by the Director with respect to appointments, promotions, assignments, separations, and the general administration of the United States Information Officer personnel system, shall at all times be compatible with, and to the extent practicable, similar to those applicable to the Foreign Service Officer Corps.

"(g) Nothing in this legislation shall be construed to authorize the Director to establish a Foreign Service Institute as provided in Title VII of the Foreign Service Act.

"(h) Nothing in this legislation shall be construed to make permanent the separation of the overseas information program from the Department of State."